Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00014 051536Z ACTION SY-05

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R 051440Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7838 INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS/FO

ROME FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ASEC, MT

SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT OF CONTRACT GUARDS

REF: A. 77 DEPT A-688, B. 77 VALLETTA 1500, C. 77 VALLETTA A-47,

1. SINCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS WITHDRAWN PROTECTION SERVICES AT CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE, WE BELIEVE THAT CONTRACT GUARD SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN MISSION FACILITIES. ALTHOUGH GOM HAS ASSURED US OF PROTECTION THROUGH USE OF ROVING POLICE CAR PATROLS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH PATROLS WILL BE ADEQUATE TO PROVIDE THE DEGREE OF SECURITY REQUIRED.

2. THE POST'S PROPOSAL FOR GUARD COVERAGE IS TO HAVE ONE CONTRACT TO COVER FIVE PERSONNEL. THE LOCATION OF POSTS AND HOURS MANNED WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A) ONE GUARD WILL BE DETAILED TO THE CHANCERY DURING WORKING HOURS TO COMPLY WITH PROPOSAL NO. 1 OF REF. C;

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B) FOUR GUARDS TO THE RESIDENCE ON A 24 HOUR BASIS.

THE GUARDS WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND WILL LIAISE WITH THE LOCAL POLICE FORCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES. THE ADDITIONAL COST FOR THIS TYPE OF GUARD CONTRACT IS ESTIMATED TO BE DOLS 14000 PER YEAR.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS TYPE OF GUARD CONTRACT IS PREFERABLE (AND NOTES THAT REDUNDANT BRITISH TRAINED GUARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE) TO HAVING A MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT WHICH WOULD BE MORE COSTLY TO ESTABLISH AND WHICH WOULD PLACE A VERY HEAVY BURDEN ON THE LIMITED STAFF OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. MOREOVER, THE HOST GOVERNMENT MAY WELL NOT BE AGREEABLE TO A MARINE GUARD PRESENCE. LAINGEN

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